

Application No. 09/740101
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Amendment
Attorney Docket No. S63.2A-9285-US01

Amendments To The Specification:

Please replace the paragraph starting on line 6 of page 5, with the following amended paragraph:

Balloon 12 may be composed of any thermoplastic polymer, or polymers, suitable for use as a medical balloon. Such thermoplastic polymers include, but are not limited to: polyesters, polyethylene terephthalate (PET), polybutylene terephthalate (PBT), PEBAX™ (polyether-block polyamide polymer), Nylon™, polyurethane, polyester-polyether block copolymer such as ARNITEL™ (polyester-polyether block copolymer), polyolefin and polyolefin compounds. In addition, the present balloon may be manufactured by any means appropriate for manufacture a medical balloon. One such approach involves forming a balloon by stretching and blowing of the balloon from a segment of extruded polymer tubing. Methods of forming the balloon of the present invention may include the following:

Please replace the paragraph starting on line 20 of page 8, with the following amended paragraph:

In an alternative embodiment of the invention shown in FIG. 6 the catheter 10 may include balloon 12 which has a stent mounting region 14 having a central portion 26 which when in the non-inflated state has a diameter 32 less than the diameters 34 and 36 of the end portions 28 and 30. In the embodiment shown the central portion 26 will have a diameter 32 which is between about 0.1 to 0.25 mm less than the diameters 34 and 36 of the respective end portions 28 and 30. By providing the balloon 12 with a central portion 26 which has a smaller diameter 32 than the respective diameters 34 and 36 of the end portions 28 and 30, the end portions 28 and 30 effectively provide a pair of engagement surfaces between the balloon 12 and the stent 38 during balloon inflation. In the inflated state, the diameter of the central portion 26 is substantially the same as the diameters 34 and 36, such as is depicted in FIG. 2.